GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7023
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
STONE AND COPPER PLATE INSCRIPTIONS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stone inscriptions and copper plate inscriptions so far discovered in the country;

(b) the chronological classification and details of the number of inscriptions found so far;

(c) the number of stone inscriptions and copper plate inscriptions from Tamil Nadu copied deciphered and published so far;

(d) the details of chronological classification of these inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) the various steps taken by the Government to publish these inscriptions of historical and social value?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) & (b) A total of 85, 874 stone and copper plate inscriptions have found by the Archaeological Survey of India so far. Chronologically they date from the 3rd century B.C. to the 19th century A.D.

(c), (d) & (e) In Tamil Nadu as on date a total of 37371 stone and copper plate inscriptions have been found by the Archaeological Survey of India. These inscriptions date from 6th - 7th century A.D. to 19th century A.D. These inscriptions have been reported in the Epigraphical publications of the Archaeological Survey of India viz. Annual Reports on Indian Epigraphy, South Indian Inscriptions, Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Epigraphia Indica, and Epigraphia Indica(Arabic and Persian Supplement).